

RELEASE IN FULL

2003

PBHISTORY PROGRESS REPORT: 9 - 18 August 1954

General

1. During this period the PBHISTORY team devoted its principal efforts to the preliminary sorting of tens of thousands of documents and to the secondary and more careful sorting of material which had been previously sorted by PBHISTORY. Initial explanation of the Comite's activities to the local press was arranged by PBHISTORY KUGOWN and certain documents were released with the promise of more to follow. Since the Comite still had been unable to enter into an operational phase there was no chance to exploit any KUFIRE possibilities. A lack of autostat machines prevented a really effective KUGOWN dispersion of documents to local sources and the lack of the microfilm team prevented any large scale photography of chronological files.

KUGOWN Progress

2. Through lack of contact between station officials and Essence on overt or semi-overt matters, PBHISTORY officials were confronted with demands for immediate help not only in PBHISTORY matters but in general problems which Essence appeared to have neither the time nor experience to resolve. However, following Hqs. instructions and an agreement with Barnister, it was decided that Station KUGOWN personnel would give attention to Essence's general problems and PBHISTORY officials would concern themselves solely with PBHISTORY affairs.

3. The following arrangement with Essence assures a rapid and effective local placement of PBHISTORY material. PBHISTORY officials will periodically release documents from the Comite's headquarters, always notifying Essence and giving him a copy and the credit. The material, with a prewritten covering letter by Essence, will go directly to selected local newspapers. Such an agreement assures prompt equitable distribution with local officials receiving their just share of credit.

4. The most significant KUGOWN developments were as follows:

- a. Preparation of a press handout and press conference for the Comite on 14 August, at which time Comite activities were explained and some documents released to local dailies: the story was also released to all international press services.

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(Most significant KUGOWN developments: cont.)

- b. Filming made of Communist propaganda now held at Comite headquarters. Film to be made into five-minute documentary to be shown in Guat movie houses as soon as film arrives from U.S. Copies will be sent to USIS for placement with U.S. newsreel companies. Briefs were used by NBC TV in the U.S. on 17 August.
- c. Vision magazine representative was given grey booklet document for publication 20 August. Specific documentation was anonymous Communist replies for Arbenz to Army leaders.
- d. 12 U.S. news editors visiting Guat City were given PBHISTORY propaganda kits, containing samples of photos, and a press release re the Comite. They were also shown grey booklet documents of Arbenz book dedications
- e. Essence is in the process of naming a two man Guat team to tour Latin America to show PBHISTORY slides of captured propaganda and documents, compromising photos, plus items of general interest which are favorable to the new anti-Commie regime. Separate dispatch follows to describe PBHISTORY planning and support.
- f. Although Kersten speech was played to some degree in local papers no unusual reaction followed. It is significant that neither Comite members or Essence even mentioned it to PBHISTORY officials, indicating PBHISTORY does have only minimum press value.
- g. When the arrival of PBHISTORY microfilm specialist and autostat equipment became known, arrangements were made with Comite to secure for limited time government ministry documents, heretofore not in possession Comite and PBHISTORY. Special request was made to obtain correspondence between Guat diplomatic representatives in Central American countries and Guat FORMIN. (See note equipment)
- h. Through USIA over 200 mats have been ordered for world wide distribution PBHISTORY photos.

KUPIRE progress

5. The PBHISTORY endeavor moved slowly due to a pre-occupation with priority EL GUA matters and because of close

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Station relations with current Comite leaders in KUGOWN matters. Another important factor in this field is that the Comite to date has received no legal authority to proceed in a manner which would give them the freedom to make house searches or arrests. PBHISTORY officials, with the cooperation of Station officials, did draw up an organization plan for the Comite which will be used for budgetary considerations. This organization plan, when more firmly decided upon, will be forwarded to Hqs. However, to date constant changes of secondary Comite personnel, Calligeris' vacillation in really supporting the Comite and the constant confusion which is attendant upon the pot boiling political situation makes the formation of a hard and fast Comite organization from a KUFIRE standpoint virtually impossible at this date. PBHISTORY has stressed to Bannister and to JMPLUG the necessity of stiffening Calligeris' attitude towards the communists and Arbenz supporters, so that the Comite can operate in a forceful but legal manner. Currently there is no union of thought on the latter point and as a result the executive juridical section dominated by Espalier has stalled the formation of a Comite action aim. PBHISTORY in the near future, once the secondary sorting has developed further, will have a great desire to offer KUFIRE leads to the Comite and to the Station to show where they can obtain PBHISTORY documents from the residences of Communist sympathizers or fellow travelers.

Personnel and Equipment

6. Prior to departure for WSBURNT, MYLKES advised that it would be essential for PBHISTORY to have at its disposal at least two autostat machines to exploit immediately the vital documents for either KUFIRE or KUGOWN purposes. He was assured that such machines would be air expressed on the week after his departure. The unexplained delay of these machines has seriously hampered the exploitation of these documents and MYLKES wishes to point out that as chairman of the PBHISTORY group he can not be responsible for the scarcity of documents being sent back to Hqs. or to the local press officials under these circumstances. Secure photo lab facilities to handle such a quantity production job are not available locally nor is the personnel for such an undertaking. Best efforts will be achieved with what equipment is available until the arrival of the autostat machines. It is ironic in view of the necessity to note that all other equipment ordered by PBHISTORY has arrived with the exception of the autostats.

7. Closest collaboration with the Comite leaders has been maintained by MYLKES on all PBHISTORY matters and a similar arrangement has been worked out with MYLKES and LARGVIN with Essence. An interview is contemplated by MYLKES with Calligeris

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re progress of PBHISTORY, to take place on or about 19 - 21 August. Relations with Station have become even closer upon the return of Bannister. The Station has been helpful in expediting administrative matters and a common interest continues to be manifest in how best the Comit  can be developed and controlled by KUBARK. Within the Embassy the USIA section has proved helpful as noted in paragraph 4-h. It should be noted that the expense for the operation, although suggested by PBHISTORY, is being borne by USIA. The Hqs. USIA representative, although offered the fullest opportunities to suggest and exploit material for that agency's use, has failed to present any suggestions for local use of Comit  material and thus all local exploitation has been handled by KUGOWN. The ODACID representatives have proved cooperative and have blended into the operation in a most harmonious manner. The bulk of their desired material is expected to arrive at Hqs. in microfilm form. MYLKES visited JMPLUG upon his return and gave him a short summary of the results to date and the plans for future progress. JMPLUG expressed his interest in the work and requested that he be advised periodically as to PBHISTORY progress.

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